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SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...of program to contribute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. If I could, let's return to the specific issue that we're addressing here, and that I think is, can we ask businesses that are receiving tax incentive programs, not that they forego any of the incentives that they would receive, but rather simply that they agree to a delay, a delay in the distribution. You recognize the situation we're in fiscally. The Governor recognized that situation. The Governor is a probusiness governor. He's a probusiness person. I think he's demonstrated that pretty much throughout his career. He has demonstrated leadership on this issue. He has come up with what I consider a very moderate proposal. So let's go back again to the proposal. Can we ask businesses receiving tax incentives to delay for a short time their realization of those incentives? If the answer is yes, then I think that the beliefs that most of us have about business people are; namely, that they're good people; they're good citizens; they're state citizens. Those beliefs are reinforced. We can also feel confirmed in the approach we have taken toward business; namely, we have tried to create an environment in the state which is friendly to business. We recognize, I think, that economic development is primarily the job of business. The job of government is public service. But to the extent that we can aid by making the climate for businesses friendly, we have done that. What we have said with that approach is that we are involved in a partnership. I don't think anyone would disagree with the notion that we have basically said to businesses, in spite of your best intentions, you may at some point lay off people or you may at some point leave the state. We recognize as a state government that that may happen. On the other hand, I think it's fair to assume that businesses realize that in spite of our best intentions as a state government, we may not be able to honor every detail of every agreement depending upon how severe a situation we find ourselves in. The important point here, this is a moderate proposal. This is not something drastic; this is not a cut; this is simply a delay in these. By doing this we set a tone and I think a very favorable tone in terms of the attitude